

THE MESSIAH HERALD



JANUARY, 2015

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MESSIAH CHURCH CALENDAR

USS-ARK NEWSLETTER

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

“Proclaiming God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ and his People”

The Messiah Herald



January 2015

Happy New Years will soon be ringing in our ears as January 1st rolls round. Time is an incredibly arbitrary thing. These variations in measuring time only occur within the limits of creation and as finite beings try to grasp how to mark the days of our lives.

God, whoever, or whatever we mean by that, has no such problem with time as the Alpha and the Omega, the one who was, who is, and who shall be all at once.

Our attempts to define and express God today are little better than the ideas of the ancient peoples of Israel.

And yet wherever we go God will go with us because God made us and we are God’s creatures.

Knowing that God goes with us let us not find any kindness too small to extend to our neighbor.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Years’ greetings will soon be ringing in our ears as January 1st rolls round. For those of us who live out our lives in the Church and by its calendar we will already have had a month head start on the new year which we began with Advent.

Time is an incredibly arbitrary thing. In the ancient Roman world it began on or about April 1st. When the calendar was changed to starting on January 1st, April Fool’s Day was derived from those who insisted on continuing to call April 1st as the start of the year. We, also, know that the Mayans, the Jewish community, the Chinese and others all observe a different New Year’s Day and marker for the count of the current year.

All this variation only occurs within the limits of creation and finite beings trying to grasp how to mark the days of our lives. We seem to have some need by which to impose a sense of order onto the experience of past, present and future.

God, whoever, or whatever we mean by that, has no such problem as the Alpha and the Omega, the one who was, who is, and who shall be. For God as we confess God in the biblical name of “I am” everything is present at once. For God omnipresence is not just a concept of being present in all places but, also, in all times. How can this be? Because time itself is a creature. In fact, it is a creature of the first day in Genesis 1 when God creates light, separates the light from the darkness, a first day.

Now why is all this important? It is important because it assures us that God is present with us; all the time, wherever we go. God is there. This was a huge discovery for the people of the ancient world. Often it had been expected that gods were limited to particular areas and particular lands. To be away from that land was to be away from God.

Israel’s God, however, traveled. He met Abram/Abraham as a wandering herdsman. God sent Joseph into Egypt and then went into Egypt to bring Moses and God’s people back out of Egypt to the Promised Land, this God traveled with the people in the wilderness with a tent for a home. In time God sent the people into exile and the people who had forgotten about God’s presence with them in Egypt thought it was no longer possible to sing songs to God in a strange land. Again and again this monotheistic God was so much more than they could understand.

Our attempts to define and express God today are little better than the ideas of the ancient peoples of Israel. We, too, want a sense of where God is rather than simply accepting a belief that God is. We attempt to capture visions of the world that mark God as inside or outside of creation. We create mathematical models not just from anthropocentric or geocentric views of creation, nor solar centric or galaxy centric, and not even universe centric understandings. Every time we lay out a plan that seems to define the totality of creation either in its greatness in time and space or in the minuteness of the micro scale of quarks and beyond, there is always something more, bigger or smaller. We want a theory of everything. Then we can include God in or out like the ancients.

I doubt, however, whether God will be so defined anymore than God stayed within the limits of the temple or the Promised Land. Wherever we go God will go with us because God made us and we are God’s creatures.

As we enter this new year or whenever we as finite human beings arbitrarily think it starts let us go believing and trusting that God goes with us. Knowing that God goes with us let us not find any kindness too small to extend to our neighbor nor any pursuit of justice too big or too far that we cannot accomplish it with God’s help. God is the Alpha and the Omega and all of creation is God’s temple.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| January | 1: Luke 2:15-21 |
| January | 2: Psalm 147:12-20 |
| January | 3: Ephesians 1:3-14 |
| January | 4: John 1:[1-9] 10-18 |
| January | 5: Isaiah 60:1-6 |
| January | 6: Matthew 2:1-12 |
| January | 7: Ephesians 3:1-12 |
| January | 8: Genesis 1:1-5 |
| January | 9: Psalm 29 |
| January | 10: Acts 19:1-7 |
| January | 11: Mark 1:4-11 |
| January | 12: Romans 4:1-12 |
| January | 13: Acts 22:2-16 |
| January | 14: Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36 |
| January | 15: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] |
| January | 16: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 |
| January | 17: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 |
| January | 18: John 1:43-51 |
| January | 19: Acts 4:8-13 |
| January | 20: 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 |
| January | 21: Luke 18:15-17 |
| January | 22: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 |
| January | 23: Psalm 62:5-12 |
| January | 24: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 |
| January | 25: Mark 1:14-20 |
| January | 26: Galatians 1:11-24 |
| January | 27: Genesis 45:25—46:7 |
| January | 28: Proverbs 8:1-21 |
| January | 29: Deuteronomy 18:15-20 |
| January | 30: Psalm 111 |
| January | 31: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 |



PRAYER CHAIN

Any time you wish to add a name to our prayer list, please contact Stacie Kint at dkint@nmax.net or 436-6341.

If at any time you would like to receive emails with prayer requests, please also contact Stacie.

DIAL-A-PRAYER (436-2100) IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS DAILY!

JANUARY SCHEDULES

LECTORS

4: Diana Wise
11: Linda Leister
18: Sam Leister
25: Andrea Cameron

ALTAR GUILD

Dec. 29—Jan. 4 Kay Varner
(cup communion) Clint & Jamie Miller
Jan. 5—Jan. 11 Kay Varner
(cup communion) Clint & Jamie Miller
Jan. 12—Feb. 8 Kay Varner

ALTAR FLOWERS

4: OPEN
11: OPEN
18: OPEN
25: OPEN



Messiah Women of the ELCA met on December 11, 2014 for their Christmas program.

Items for the Seafarers Project are: sweatshirts (preferably hooded in sizes L-XL, thermal or white gym socks (no dress socks), casual pull-over T-shirts in sizes M-L, and heavy knit winter caps.

The next meeting for Messiah Women of the ELCA will be Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Area. All women are invited to attend.

MESSIAH WOMEN OF THE ELCA continuously collect new bath-size bars of soap (4oz. to 5oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.



THANK YOU

Thank you to all who gave donations to help Camp Mt. Luther.

A total of \$1,638.60 was collected which will be matched by the anonymous donor.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Volunteer drivers and cooks are needed and people to help assemble meals.

If you have some spare time and can help, please call Dottie Heck at 436-6002 or 717-348-1950 (cell).

Individuals, church groups, or Sunday School classes who would like to make a contribution to the Meals-On-Wheels program, your continued support would be greatly appreciated. Contributions can be sent to:

Juniata Meals-On-Wheels
P.O. Box 251
Mifflintown, PA 17059

MESSIAH 2015 YOUTH SUNDAY

Messiah will be hosting Chad Hershberger, Director of Camp Mt. Luther, on Sunday, February 8, 2015. This will also be Youth Sunday at Messiah.

The youth will be helping throughout the service and will also provide the anthem that day. They will be singing a few songs from VBS and maybe a few Camp Mt. Luther songs with the help of Chad and our Mt. Luther campers.

If your campers have favorites, please let Kate Swailes know. If your child would like to write a letter about their camp experience or share their experience on February 8th, again, contact Kate Swailes.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

Two members of Messiah are needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly in June 2015 at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Pastor Esborn or the church office.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

A First Communion Class will be offered in February. Please register with the church office by January 23, 2015 if you would like your child to attend.

Date and time for the class will be arranged with parents.

BAPTISMAL/NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Baptismal and New Member classes will be held this winter.

If you wish to have your child baptized or you wish to attend the New Member classes, please let the church office know by January 19, 2015.



GREETERS/USHERS NEEDED FOR FAMILY SUNDAY

Family Sunday is the first Sunday of each month, and the Youth and Children Committee is looking for children and their families to be Greeters prior to the church service on Family Sundays beginning with September 7th. The Greeters' responsibilities include welcoming parishioners, handing out bulletins, providing pins to visitors, and inviting visitors to sign the guest book and Friendship Pads. For those who sign-up, please be at the main entrance off Washington Avenue between 10:00 and 10:15 a.m. to start welcoming parishioners. In addition, we would ask the family acting as Greeters to also be Ushers for the service that Sunday.

The Ushers' responsibilities include collecting the offering and returning the offering to the Pastor during the Sung Offertory.

If your family is willing to act as Greeters and Ushers on any of the Family Sundays, please add your names to the sign-up sheet hanging next to the Altar Flower chart in the Sunday School Room. Thank you!

CHURCH TREASURER NEEDED

Messiah has a position opening for church treasurer. Requirements are: the position of church treasurer must be held by an adult member of the congregation. A knowledge in proper accounting procedures is preferred. The following are some but not all of the position duties of the church treasurer:

1. Recording the congregational receipts and disbursements.
2. Suggest improved methods and systems for financial record keeping.
3. Present a written financial report

for Voters' Assembly meetings and PPC meetings.

4. Submit permanent financial records for an annual audit.
5. Pay salaries and bills as authorized by the congregation or Directors of Boards.
6. Coordinate the flow of monies from the treasury in a balanced manor.
7. Oversee the signing of all checks for payment of bills, salaries or other commitments of the congregation.

Any person interested in more information about this position may contact the church office in order to obtain a complete written job description. Further questions may be directed to PPC Executive Director, Kenneth Mummah or Pastor Esborn. Church office phone number is 436-6213, email address is messiahlutheran@pa.net.



FLOWER CHART

The 2015 flower chart is now in the Adult Sunday School Room.

If you wish to place altar flowers in the church on a specific date, please sign-up on the chart. Flower dates are on a first-come-first-served basis.

2015 CHURCH ENVELOPES

The 2015 church offering envelopes will be available in the Adult Sunday School Room for you to pick up.

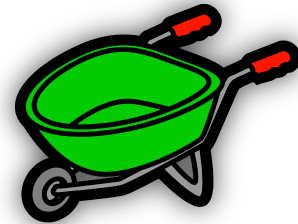
Anyone who would like a statement of their contributions for 2014 for tax purposes may call the church office and your statement will be mailed to you.

IN HOME SERVICES OF CENTRAL PA

In Home Services of Central PA – Helping Senior Citizens in **providing a MULTITUDE of services** such as:

- Housekeeping
- Meal Preparation/Catering
- Laundry Services
- Running of Errands
- Grocery/Personal Shopping
- Companionship
- Personal Assistance
- Home Maintenance/Painting
- Technology/Computer Assistance
- Gardening
- Bookkeeping/Banking Assistance
- Insurance Billing/Benefits Research
- Pet Care
- Assistance with Holidays/Parties/Yard Sales
- Assistance with Making a Move/Downsizing
- Beautician/Barber Services
- Alterations/Mending
- Medical Set-up & Monitoring by Nurse
- Transportation To All Appointments

Let us be **YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT!** For more details, please call [888-881-2046](tel:888-881-2046). Serving Centre, Mifflin and Juniata Counties (LOCALLY OWNED). Check out our [website:](http://InHomeServicesofCentralPA.com)
InHomeServicesofCentralPA.com.



HELP AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know needs help with home repairs or yard work, there are volunteers in our community who may be able to help.

For more information, contact Michael "Doc" Johnston at 436-9209.



HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR

We wish you a BLESSED NEW YEAR in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the year 2015 be filled with good health, happiness, peace and joy!





**Mini Mountain Laurel
Concert Series
2014 – 2015**

Presented by
Orthey Instruments

In **cooperation** with the PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE ARTS and host sites.

January 9/10, 2015 – Walt Michael & Company

February 20/21, 2015 – Hello Stranger featuring Dale Carter Jett

March 20/21, 2015 – Little Roy Lewis and Lizzy Long

April 10/11, 2015 – Doofus

Friday night concerts are held at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lewistown, PA, 120 North Main Street, 7:30 p.m.

Autoharp workshops are held on the days of the Saturday concert at George Orthey's workshop, 18 Burd Road, Newport. They cost \$20 a person and require reservations. Workshop offered on Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at Orthey Instruments, 18 Burd Road, Newport, PA

Saturday night concerts are held at Highland United Presbyterian Church, 11 Church Road, Newport, PA, 7:30 p.m.

Call George Orthey at (717) 567-6406 (Workshop) or (717) 567-9469 (Home).

Email: gorthey@gmail.com

All concerts are free and open to the public.

A free will offering (\$10-\$20 per person suggested) is accepted at the door.

This Pennsylvania Partners in the arts Program is made possible through a regional partnership between Community Partnerships Resource Conservation and Development and the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts.

Juniata County Food Pantry January Update

Happy New Year! As we wind down our joyous celebrations of the holiday season, it's important to remember that for our neighbors in poverty this season has a different name: **"The Season of Heat or Eat!"** There are many families this winter who will have to choose whether to heat their homes or buy food and other necessities. Please keep them in mind as you pack away Christmas decorations and finish off leftovers.

In November 2014, the Food Pantry served 377 families – 1081 individuals! We thank St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for sending volunteers for the month of November. We are also thankful for all who shared their abundance with the Food Pantry during November and December. Because it's flu season and many of our families will be trying to battle illness as well as a lack of heat, if you could help by donating the items below, we would be very grateful.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY
ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS; TISSUES; TOILET PAPER;
OVER-THE-COUNTER PAIN, COLD AND FLUE MEDICINES.
WE ALSO GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS OF CASH
AND GIFT CARDS FOR LOCAL STORES.

Address: P.O. Box 44, 114 N. Main St., Mifflintown, PA 17059

Phone #: 717-436-9718

Hours: Tuesday 9-12 & 1-5, Saturday 9-12

***Remember, our vestibule is open to receive non-perishable donations any hour, any day! Cash or gift card donations may be deposited through the mail slot inside the vestibule.**

Visit our **W**ebbsite: www.jcfoodpantry.com

Like us on **F**ace **B**ook!

*PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE JUNIATACOUNTY FOOD PANTRY. (CONTACT PERSON: KATHY QUEITZSCH). Email: jcfoodpantry@embarqmail.com

